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. . . The French Committee having charge of the arrangements for the Peace Congress to be held at Paris in 1900 announce that the Congress will be held in the month of September, on the Exposition grounds, in the *Palais des Congres*, or building set apart for Congresses.

. . . The Swedish parliament has voted 2,388,000 crowns for the purchase of rifles, and 2,200,000 for the improvement of the Swedish fortifications. Thus does militarism continue to devour both small and great.

. . . Signor Marconi, the inventor of the system of wireless telegraphy has succeeded in transmitting messages across the English Channel a distance of thirty-two miles. The first message transmitted was sent by the Morse code and was published in the *London Times*.

. . . Of the total appropriations, \$1,566,890,016, made in two years by the last Congress, \$482,562,083 were on account of the war with Spain. When all counted it will be \$500,000,000.

Manifesto of the Czar.

JOHN COLLINS.

The hour has struck—its echoes wake the nations,
Drifting unconscious on a stormy sea,
While, far and near, its solemn, deep vibrations
Appeal for peace through centuries yet to be.

From frozen climes where winter reigns forever,
From southern seas by icy winds unknown,
Rings out the cry, "Shall aught our friendship sever,
Parting the peoples of each distant zone?"

"Shall war with all its horrors devastating
And influence malign, its power extend
From year to year, in reckless fury wasting
Millions of men and treasure without end?"

"Forbid it, heaven!" comes up in chorus swelling,
From fur-clad Russ and Cossack of the Don,
From Scandinavian and Italian dwelling,
Or lands the burning tropic sun shines on.

From fields once drenched with blood of foes contending,
From cities ravaged by the tide of war,
A thrilling protest now the past is sending,
Imploring men that it be known no more.

Nor these alone—a cry of bitter anguish
Or hopeless grief on every breeze is borne,
From homes, where thousands now are doomed to languish
And loss of friends and nearest kindred mourn.

On Britain's shores, from many a heart ascending,
Prayers rise in concert to a Power on high,
That diverse nations, all their interests blending,
May know a common brotherhood and tie.

Columbia, too, declares her friendly greeting,
With voice responsive to the Czar's appeal,
In worn humanity's best cause, entreating
Peace, for the sake of every commonweal.

Ah! may we learn from all the desolation
Of former empires crumbled into dust,
Naught can avail to elevate a nation
Placing on brutal force alone its trust.

Let not the myriad mingled voices crying
For justice, love and mercy, be unheard,
But, round the earth fraternal words be flying,
That monarchs may to better life be stirred.

Up then! all patriots of whatever station,
Denounce the spirit and the aims of war,
Till swords are sheathed and final arbitration
Shall end its woes and confidence restore.

So shall mankind be blest throughout the ages
That yet may dawn upon a guilty world,
And History show no more its blood-stained pages
When flags of Peace are everywhere unfurled.
Philadelphia, May, 1899.

Annual Meeting of the American Peace Society.

The seventy-first Annual Business Meeting of the American Peace Society met in room A., Tremont Temple at 2.15 P. M., May 8th. President Paine presided. Prayer was offered by the Rev. Charles G. Ames. L. H. Pillsbury was appointed Secretary of the meeting. The records of the previous meeting were read and approved. Secretary Trueblood reported that all the persons chosen at the last annual meeting as officers had accepted their appointment.

A number of letters were presented by the Secretary from members of the Society expressing their regrets at not being able to be present, and their continued interest in the work.

On motion, the chairman appointed Wm. E. Sheldon, Dr. S. F. Hershey, and Rev. Wm. S. Heywood, a committee to bring forward names of persons to serve as officers of the Society for the coming year.

The Treasurer's annual report was then read. It showed that \$5610.51 had been received during the year and \$5250.17 paid out, leaving a balance on hand of \$360.34.

The assets and liabilities account showed a balance of \$1560.00 due the Permanent Peace Fund, against which the Society has ten shares of railroad stock estimated at \$1400.00, and the \$360.34 in the hands of the Treasurer.

The Auditor reported that he had examined the accounts of the Treasurer and office account of the Secretary, and found them correctly kept and vouchers for all money paid out.

Secretary Trueblood presented for information the annual statement of the Treasurer of the Permanent Peace Fund showing the income received from the fund. He stated that the income had materially diminished, owing to decay of buildings, and that the Society is dependent for the time being on the generosity of its friends for funds with which to carry on its work.

The Committee to nominate officers reported the list of

persons which on ballot were declared elected to the various positions.

On motion, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis, Ind., Mrs. Ruth H. Spray of Salida, Col., and Mrs. Geo. W. Bingham of Derry, N. H., were also chosen vice-presidents.

The annual report of the Board of Directors was then read by Secretary Trueblood.

Discussion followed which was participated in by Dr. S. F. Hershey, Dr. C. G. Ames, W. E. Sheldon, Rev. A. E. Winship, Rev. Wm. S. Heywood, President Paine, Mrs. Edwin D. Mead, Mrs. Hannah J. Bailey, N. T. Allen, L. H. Pillsbury and Secretary Trueblood.

The report was then approved and ordered to be published in the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*.

The Society then adjourned at 3.50 P. M.

Annual Report of the Directors of the American Peace Society.

Mr. President and Members of the American Peace Society:

The Seventy-first Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the American Peace Society is herewith respectfully submitted.

MEETINGS AND ACTION OF THE BOARD.

Since our appointment last year we have endeavored to represent and promote the cause for which the Society has so long labored, as well as we could with the resources at our command and under the peculiar difficulties and anxieties which the year has brought with it. We have held regular meetings every two months, except during the summer vacation, and in addition to the more general work of helping to educate the public in the principles of arbitration and peace we have had under careful consideration the important questions arising in connection with the war with Spain, the outbreak of hostilities in the Philippines, the Peace Manifesto of the Czar of Russia, etc. In connection with each of these we have taken such action as was demanded by our principles and as seemed expedient at the time.

PERIODICALS.

The *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* and the *ANGEL OF PEACE* have both been continued under the editorial care of the Secretary. The interest in the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* has been greater than at any other time in recent years. The course which it has taken in reference to the momentous questions which have agitated the country, has not, to our knowledge, alienated anyone, but has won many to active coöperation with us. The paper has been sent regularly, as heretofore for years, to the reading rooms of colleges, universities, theological schools, to many Y. M. C. A.'s, to public libraries, to ministers, teachers and other leaders of opinion, as our funds have permitted. The Miles White Beneficial Society of Baltimore, the Obadiah Brown Benevolent Fund of Providence, the Rhode Island Peace Society, the Peace Committee of the New England Friends Yearly Meeting, and a number of individuals in different states have made special contributions for its circulation.

No part of our work is more important than the education of the young to right methods of thinking on the subject of peace and the methods by which it may be maintained. The events of the past year show how painfully far public sentiment yet is from being what it ought to be on this subject. The war spirit still lives and is, we fear, behind much of what is given a nobler name. The campaign of education must be, if not undertaken anew, at least carried forward with greatly increased energy and devotion. All the members and friends of the Society in all parts of the land can do much by aiding in the circulation of our journal, and in other ways which lie open to them before their own doors.

GENERAL LITERATURE.

Many thousands of copies of the various pamphlets, leaflets and reports which we keep in stock, for sale and free distribution, have been sent out during the year. One constantly encouraging feature of this work is the numerous calls for literature coming from the college and university young men and women who are studying and debating the subjects of arbitration, disarmament and universal peace. This has been more than ordinarily the case the past year, the calls coming also from High Schools, church debating societies and working-boys' clubs. The women's clubs are becoming awakened to interest in the subject of international peace. We have assisted in supplying a number of these with literature.

We have tried to keep on hand a good supply of the best peace literature, both old and new, as far as our limited funds have permitted. As this department of our work is by no means self-supporting, we are dependent on the generosity of the friends of the cause for its maintenance.

PUBLIC WORK.

The president and members of the board have during the year, in addition to their official action as a body, sought as individuals to promote in various ways the principles for which the Society stands. Other members of the Society also, in other parts of the nation, have done timely and effective service, especially in efforts to prevent the train of evils following in the wake of the Spanish war. The press has been used, public addresses given and various private efforts put forth to awaken interest in the cause of peace and goodwill, and to win for it new supporters. The Secretary, in addition to his editorial and office duties, which demand much time, has given a number of public addresses, particularly upon the significance of the Peace Rescript of the Czar of Russia, and the dangers of the growing spirit of militarism and of national vainglory in many of the people of our beloved country. The efforts of the Secretary, of members of the Board, and of other members of the Society, some of whom in different States it would afford us peculiar pleasure to name, have resulted in considerably increasing the list of subscribers to our journal and in the addition of more than fifty new and valuable members to the Society.

THE CZAR'S PEACE MANIFESTO.

At our meeting in September, soon after the publication of the now famous Rescript of the Czar of Russia, we took action expressing strong approval of his proposals, our profound gratitude at the step taken, and our desire that the most signal success might crown the effort.